

REMARKS

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 9 and 11 have been amended. Claims 1-3, 9 and 11 are pending and under consideration. Claims 4, 6-8, 10 and 12 have been previously withdrawn and are now cancelled. Claim 5 has been previously cancelled.

No new matter is being presented, and approval of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

OBJECTION TO THE DRAWINGS

On page 2, item 3, of the Action, the Examiner objects to Fig. 3 as failing to show the control table (105) as mentioned on page 9, line 12, of the Specification.

On page 9, lines 9-12, of the Specification, a description of Fig. 6A-C is provided which illustrates an example of privilege control tables 105(a)-(c) for setting the I/O privileges for the various personal computers 103(a)-(c), in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention. The Specification states that each personal computer 103a, 103b and 103c shown in Fig. 3 includes a privilege control table, 105a, 105b and 105c.

Based on Figs. 3 and 6A-C, as well as the description of Figs. 6A-C on page 9, lines 9-12, of the Specification, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would clearly understand that the privilege control tables are stored in the various personal computers. Therefore, no changes to the Drawings are provided herein, and Applicants respectfully request that the objection be withdrawn.

REJECTION OF CLAIM 1 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112, SECOND PARAGRAPH

On page 3, item 5, of the Action, the Examiner rejects claim 1 because the recitation "the input/output status" lacks antecedent basis.

Claim 1 is amended herein to overcome the rejection. Approval of amended claim 1 is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS 1-3, 9 AND 11 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(b) AS BEING ANTICIPATED BY RICH (U.S. PATENT NO. 5,796,396)

The rejections of claims 1-3, 9 and 11 are respectfully traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Amended independent claim 1, for example, recites an input/output status controller, based on control tables, controlling an input/output status of commands from respective consoles to the server so that only one console at a time is allowed to have input privilege and other of the consoles are allowed to have output privilege; an input/output controller, based on privilege control tables, controlling the input/output of commands based on the input/output status so that the commands from the input privileged console are sent to the server, and response messages or results of execution from the server are sent to the input privileged console and the output privileged consoles; and a switching mechanism automatically switching the input privileged console to having the output privilege after receiving the results of the execution.

Therefore, according the present invention, recited in claim 1, privilege control tables specify the hosts for connections and control I/O privileges for the applicable hosts. Using the privilege control tables, the system can protect the server from unnecessary command input by the users (see, e.g., page 15, line 4-7 of the Specification), because when the console receives the command input from the user PC, the console first references the privilege table to determine whether or not the PC has the privilege to access the host, and has read/write (rw) privileges for the host. If the PC has rw privileges, the operation will proceed. (See, e.g., Fig. 7, reference numerals 720-740).

Moreover, with the use of plural control tables and privilege control tables, plural console systems can be managed at the same time.

Furthermore, claim 1, as amended, recites a switching mechanism which automatically switches the input privileged console to having the output privilege after receiving the results of the execution. That is, the mechanism switches the rw connection to a read (r) connection after receiving from the host the results of execution of a command. (See, e.g., Fig. 8, numeral 860, and page 18, lines 19-21).

Similarly, independent claims 9 and 11 are amended herein to recite controlling, based on control tables, the input status of the server to exclude input of other commands to the server while in the updated input status, wherein only one console at a time is allowed to have input

privilege and other of the consoles are allowed to have output privilege with the server; controlling, based on privilege control tables, the input/output of commands based on an input/output status so that the commands from the input privileged console are sent to the server, and the response message or the result of execution from the server are sent to the input privileged console and the output privileged consoles; and automatically switching the input privileged console to having the output privilege after receiving the result of the execution

Rich neither teaches nor suggests the features of independent claims 1, 9 and 11 discussed above. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 9 and 11 patentably distinguish over the prior art.

Claims 2 and 3 depend from claim 1 and inherit its patentable recitations. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that dependent claims 2 and 3 also patentably distinguish over the prior art.

CONCLUSION

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot. Further, all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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